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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/868,376	06/18/2001	Wolfgang O. Budde	PHD 99,150	9033
24737	7590	01/25/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			CHOU, ALBERT T	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2662	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/868,376	BUDDE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Albert T. Chou	2662	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-8 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (US Patent Number: 4,694,453) hereinafter referred to as Kobayashi.

3. Regarding claims 1 and 9, Kobayashi teaches a time-division multiplexing network (Figure 1; Abstract; *a network*) comprising a **Central Station (PBX) 1** and a plurality of **Local Stations 2a-2n** (Figure 1; Abstract; col. 3, lines 7-19; *a plurality of intercoupled network nodes*), controlled by **Transmission Timing Adjust 39, Transmit Enable and Transmit Clock Generator 49a** (Figure 7; col. 7, lines 20-28; *controlled by a respective bus guardian*), in which information signals are transmitted from the **Local Stations 2a-2n** onto **Uplink 3** to a **Central Station 1** on a time-division multiplexing basis (Figures 1 and 2b; col. 3, lines 26-29; *send messages during an assigned time slot*) and received from the **Central Station 1** onto **Downlink 4** to the **Local Stations 2a-2n** on a time-division multiplexing basis (Figures 1 and 2a; Abstract; col. 3, lines 20-26; *receive messages outside the assigned time slot*). Kobayashi also teaches that each of **Local Stations 2a-2n** comprises a **Test Signal Generator 49** (Figure 7;

col. 6, lines 35-41; each network node contains a test signal generator), which delivers the test signal on a time-division multiplexing basis (Figures 2b and 4; col. 6, lines 35-41 & 48-51; a test signal generator delivers a test signal outside the assigned time slot). Kobayashi further teaches that each of **Local Stations 2a-2n** also has a test signal detecting function, which comprising the **Carrier Sense Circuit 40**, the **Address Detector 44**, the **Comparator 46** and the **Transmission Timing Adjust Circuit 39** (Figure 7, col. 6, lines 1-21 & 35-51; each network node contains a test signal detector), that detects the transmission delay time (detects a defective circuits portion) from the transmission to the reception of the test signal and adjusts transmission timing of the information signal to be transmitted based on the measured delay time (Figures 7-10, col. 7, lines 58-58; col. 8, lines 1-32; detects a defective circuit portion in the assigned network node and/or in a at least another network node).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base

claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Albert T. Chou whose telephone number is

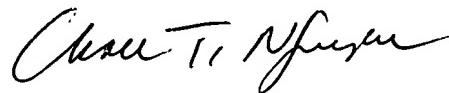
571-272-6045. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on 571-272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AC

Albert T. Chou
January 21, 2005



CHAU NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 260C